

S E C R E T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--THE MILITARY SITUATION

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Khmer Communist initiatives against Loyek northwest of Phnom Penh are presently limited to sporadic artillery and mortar fire. Cambodian Army officers at Loyek report nearly 200 military and 60 civilian casualties since May 4.

The Communists yesterday launched new ground attacks against government positions north and east of Prey Veng City. Government defenders pulled back from one exposed outpost but held their ground at the main defenses. The Khmer Air Force has cut back its support at Prey Veng because of higher priorities elsewhere. In the far southwest, the government has withdrawn two battalions from Kampot City to try to stabilize the situation along Route 4 about 20 miles northeast

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of Kompong Som. Government forces still hold positions on the highway ten miles north and south of the town of Veal Renh, captured by the Communists over the weekend. Communist attacks in this area could presage a move against the nearby air base at Ream or they could be designed to divert government reinforcements from Kampot.